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ELLESMERE PORT

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

BY

W.J. BIRCHALL. M.B. (Hons) M.R.C.S.(Eng.),L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

INTRODUCTION.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1940.

The report is again in abridged form as was the case last year. This accords with recent instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The year under review reflects a generally favourable state of the health of the public for the first full year under war conditions.

The total number of infectious diseases notified is less than in 1939, and this is the case with each individual disease. Notable decreases were in cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The Vital Statistics are based upon a population of 28,160, as estimated by the Registrar General.

This is an increase of 1,240 on the previous year.

The Crude Death Rate is 10.3 per 1,000 population, an increase on 8.50, the previous year's figure. The corrected death rate is 13.9 compared with the figure of 14.3 for England and Wales.

The Birth Rate is 20.09 per 1,000 population, compared with 20.25 for 1939. The figure for England and Wales is 14.6.

It is satisfactory to note, that among 566 births which occurred during the year, no maternal deaths were recorded. This compares more than favourably with figures for the rest of the country.

The Infant Mortality Rate is again on the high side, being 63.3 per 1,000 live births compared with 58.8 for 1939. The rate for England and Wales is 55.0.

As in the case of most people it has been a difficult year for the Health Department. Civil Defence measures have occupied much of our time, whilst unusual health problems associated with war conditions, and the consequent disturbance of the normal routine of individual life, command attention and require investigation.

The staff of the Department has worked consistently and well, many extra hours having been willingly devoted to Civil Defence.

The First Aid Services of the Air Raid Precautions Organisation have been maintained in a state of efficiency by both voluntary part time and whole time paid members. Providentially no large scale incidents involving many casualties have occurred in the Urban District; and in those instances where unfortunately casualties have occurred the services have acted with promptness and efficiency. They have also performed, on several occasions, praiseworthy services in neighbouring districts where their assistance and co-operation was called for. We are grateful to the large number of volunteers who have devoted many hours of their spare time on duty at the several Depots and First Aid Posts in the Urban District.

A noteworthy change of staff occurred during the year in the retirement in August of Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, after 26 years of valuable service. He was succeeded in this important position by Mr. Emlyn Tuft, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

I wish to record my grateful appreciation of the lively interest and helpful co-operation of the members of the Council and the Health and Maternity Child Welfare committees in particular, also of the conscientious assistance that I have received from all members of the Health Department and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, during a difficult year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. Birchall,

Medical Officer of Health.

ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince, and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton; also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:	W.J.Birchall, M.B; M.R.C.S; L.R.C.P; D.P.H.
Orthopoedic Surgeon:	T.Hartley Martin, M.B; B.Ch.
Rural Surgeon:	R.Martin, M.B; B.Ch.
Gynae-cologist:	Morris Datnow, M.D; F.R.C.S.(Edin.)
Chief Sanitary Inspector:	E.Tuft, M.R.San.I; M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector:	S. Jackson, A.R.San.I.
Clerk in the Department:	R.K.Francis.
Senior Health Visitor:	Miss M.B.Redfern, C.M.B. C.R.S.I.
Assistant Health Visitors:	Miss L.M.Rendell, S.R.N; C.M.B; H.V.
	Miss M. Ainscough. S.R.N; C.M.B; H.V.

All the officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	9,144.
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population,(1940)	28,160.
Number of houses in the area (1940)	7,153.
Rateable Value	£175,300.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£647.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

(Compiled from figures supplied by Registrar General).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	286	252	538
Illegitimate	16	12	28
	302	264	566

Birth Rate 20.09 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1940), in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000-50,000 Census 1931 - 15.7

STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	14	9	23
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	14	10	24.

Still birth rate 40.6 per 1,000 total live and still births or .85 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1925-1939 was 458.

Birth Rate England and Wales, 1940	14.6
Birth Rate England and Wales, 1939	15.0
Birth Rate Administrative County of Chester 1939 ...	14.62

DEATHS.

Total 291. Males 181. Females 110.

Death Rate 10.3 per 1,000 population.

The corrected death rate was 13.9, using a comparability factor of 1.35.

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1925-39 was 199.

The percentage of deaths occurring in Public Institutions was 46.7

The Ratio of local adjusted death rate to the National rate was (1939) England and Wales.

The Ratio of local adjusted death rate to National Rate .89 (1939) Administrative County of Cheshire.

Death Rate - England and Wales 14.3 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate - 148 Smaller Towns 12.8 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.	Rate per 1,000 live Births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

The figures for England and Wales were :-

	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	.52
Other puerperal causes	1.64
	2.16

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Number.	Rate.
All infants per 1,000 live Births	36.	63.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.	59.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	4.	137.9

The figures for England and Wales were:-

All England and Wales	55.0
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated resident population 25,000-50,000 Census 1931) ...	54.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	61.0
London	50.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	All causes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
2.	Measles	-	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	1	1
6.	Influenza	6	1	7
7.	Acute Infective Encaphalitis	1	-	1
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	-	2
9.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	6	1	7
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	4	6
11.	Syphilis	2	1	3
12.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	21	13	34
13.	Diabetes	-	1	1
14.	Cerebral Haemorrhage or Thrombosis	11	9	20
15.	Heart Disease	50	30	80
16.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6
17.	Bronchitis	11	2	13
18.	Pneumonia (all forms)	16	7	23
19.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
20.	Peptic Ulcer	3	-	3
21.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	2	4
22.	Appendicitis	2	0	2
23.	Other digestive diseases	2	1	3
24.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	8	15.
25.	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
26.	Other puerperal causes	-	-	-
27.	Congenital Debility, Malformations, Birth Injuries etc.....	5	2	7
28.	Premature birth	3	6	9
29.	Suicide	2	0	2
30.	Road Traffic accidents	6	2	8
31.	Other Violence	7	2	9
32.	Other ill defined diseases	10	11	21
		181.	110.	291.

GENERAL PROVISION OF ~~HEALTH~~ SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available :-

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical analyses and Bacteriological examinations of water; also the bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester Laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council, and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B.Diphtheria was 29.

There were 23 throat swabs of which 2 were returned positive and 21 negative; also 6 nasal swabs all of which were returned negative.

The number of naso-pharynx swabs examined for Meningococcus was 7; 3 were returned negative and 4 positive.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B.Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 54. Of these 10 were returned positive and 44 negative.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation.

There is need for a District Nurse in the Parish of Little Sutton.

(b) For Infectious Diseases. There are no arrangements made for nursing infectious cases in the home, with the exception of Pneumonia.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened at Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic, with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held at the Welfare Centre.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Ten samples of water were obtained during the year, six for bacteriological examination and four for chemical analysis, showing the results as indicated overleaf.

Samples 3 and 9 show evidence of B.coli contamination. In both instances, the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board was informed, and further samples were obtained by him and submitted for examination to their analyst. These proved satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the district. The works at Little Stanney were newly erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town works were reconstructed and designed for a population of 7,000. A small area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The Parish of Ince is rural in character and completely unsewered.

The most recent dwellings erected in Ince are drained to approved combined septic tanks and filter beds, the effluent being discharged into the nearby watercourse.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the district during the year:-

Foul water sewers ...	... ...	480	lineal yards.
Surface water sewers	... ...	513	" "
	Total	993	" "

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not yet available, some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water supply and date sample taken.	Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on Gelatine plates incubated at 20-22 degs.C.for 3 days.	Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on Agar Plates incubated at 37 degs.C.for 2 days.	B.Coli Communis.	Strepto-cocci.	B.Enteriditis Sporogenes.
(1) Standpipe, Monastry Row, Ince. 29th March, 1940.	Nil.	1. per c.c.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	Absent in 10 c.cs.	Absent in 50 c.cs.
Remarks: This is an excellent water.					
(3) Xanthlyn, Pooltown Rd. Whitby. 2nd May, 1940.	Nil.	Nil.	Absent in 50 c.cs. Present in 100 c.cs.	Absent in 10 c.cs.	Absent in 50 c.cs.
Remarks: I am of the opinion that the presence of B.Coli in 100 c.cs. is an accidental contamination as the water in other respects is excellent.					
(4) Hutments. Meadow Lane. Bath tap. 6th August, 1940.	24 per c.c.	Nil.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	
Remarks: Highly satisfactory water.					
(5) Army Hutments. Meadow Lane. Cook-house tap. 6th August, 1940.	106 per c.c.	25 per c.c.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	
Remarks: Highly satisfactory water.					
(7) Standpipe. Stanney Lane. 21st November 1940.	1,600 per c.c.	1,2 00 per c.c.	Absent in 100 c.cs.	Absent in 10 c.cs.	Absent in 50 c.cs.
Remarks: This is quite a good water, but the total count is rather high.					
(9) Tap in Scullery, 2, Briarfield Cottages, Little Sutton. 31st December 1940.	640 per c.c.	48 per c.c.	Present in 6 c.cs. Absent in 5c.cs.	Absent in 10 c.cs.	Absent in 50 c.cs.
Remarks: This water shews evidence of contamination of organic origin which should be removed before this water can be considered suitable for domestic purposes. Is it that this is a contamination from the tap?					

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Water Supply and Date when the sample was taken.	Colour of water viewed in a 2 ft. glass tube.	Combined Chlorine.	Equivalent to NaCl.	Nitric Nitrogen.	Nitrous Nitrogen.	Albumenoid Nitrogen.	Ammonical Nitrogen.	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 Deg.C.	Lead Copper or Iron.	Temporary Hardness.	Permanent Hardness.	Total Hardness.
Standpipe at (2) Hon stry Row, Ince. 29th March 1940.	Clear.	2.7	4.34	Nil.	Nil.	0.001	Nil.	0.02	Nil.	10.0	13.0	23.0.
Remarks: This is a satisfactory water.												
Tap to mains (6) Army Huts, Meadow Lane. 6th August 1940.	Clear.	37.50	-	Minute trace.	Nil.	-	.001	0.02	Nil,	-	-	30.
Remarks: The sample was clear, colourless, and odourless. It contained only a minute trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegerable debris, hydrated oxide of iron, with iron organisms and particles of siliceous matter. The water is very hard and contains an undue proportion of salt 51.7 parts per 100,000.												
Tap in scullery 2, Briarfield (10) Cottages Little Sutton. 31st December 1940.	-	38.2	60.12.	Nil.	Nil.	0.002	Nil.	0.01	Nil.	9.0	24.0	33.0
Remarks: This is quite a satisfactory water but rather hard.												
Standpipe, Stanney Lane, (8) E.Port. 21st November 1940.	Clear.	37.9	60.64.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	0.03	Nil.	6.0	18.0	24.0
Remarks: This is quite a good water but is rather hard for economical domestic use.												

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives a classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered; also the action taken and the result of such action.

Annual Tabular Statement of Inspection, and the Result of Service of Notices, for the year ended 31st December, 1940.
(supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector).

Premises etc. inspected.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices served. Informal.	Number of Notices served. Statutory.	Result of Service of Notices. Complied with.	Result of Service of Notices. Remaining in hand
Dwelling houses (General)	150.	150.	28.	131.	19.
Revisits to inspect work in progress.	1143.				
Re-inspections	2.				
Schools	12.	3.		3.	
Backyards & San. conven.	229.	229.	26.	22.	4.
Ditches and watercourses	8.	8.	2.	8.	
Keeping of animals	2.				
Offensive trades	12.				
Drainage	8.				
Public Abattoirs	654.				
Private Slaughterhouses	6.				
Food Premises	67.	1.		1.	
Bakehouses.	34.	5.		4.	1.
Factories (Mobile)	1				
" (Non-mobile)	19.				
Offensive Accumulations	3.		1.	1.	
Smoke Observations	12.				
Cowshed and Dairies	86.	1.		1.	
Milkshops & Purveyors premises	7.				
Canal Boats	79.		11.	9.	2.
Infectious Disease enquiries	103				
Visit re Isolation	16.				
Premises disinfected	177.				
Visit re vermin infestation	35.				
Number of disinfestations	40.				
Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological exam.	26.				
Samples of water submitted for examination	10.				
Shops Acts: 1st inspections	2.				
Revisits.	111.				
Reference to other depts.	17.				
Miscellaneous visits and interviews.	199.				
Air Raid Shelters, Public.	41.				
School.	82.				
Communal.	69.				
Totals:-	3462.	397.	68.	180.	26.

During the year legal proceedings were instituted in one instance for non-compliance of an Abatement Notice served under the Public Health Act 1936, Section 93. The case was adjourned for one month and the notice was complied with.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Nature of Nuisance and Defects Recorded.	Number.
Houses or parts thereof requiring cleansing.	12.
Houses or parts thereof with broken plaster.	22.
Drains, Defective.	2.
Drains, Choked.	27.
Drain ventilation pipes defective.	18.
W.C. pans and traps broken.	22.
W.C. fittings and flushing cisterns defective.	95.
Scullery sinks defective.	1.
Sink and bath waste pipes defective.	23.
House roofs defective	62.
Rain water gutters and fall pipes defective	36.
ditto ditto choked.	60.
Dust bins dilapidated.	240.
Accumulations of refuse	3.
Yard surfaces defective	10.
Washing boilers defective	12.
Tiled floors defective	14.
Wooden floors defective	10.
Window frames defective	25.
Fire-places, ovens &c. defective	31.
Stair-steps or risers &c. defective	3.
Front paths defective	2.
Brickwork defective and pointing perished	17.
Watercourses choked	6.
Bakehouses (limewashing overdue)	5.
Other defects	7.
Canal boats (defects noted and remedied)	9.
Rent books without information required by S.62 Housing Act 1936.	21.
Miscellaneous nuisances and defects	91.
Cowsheds Limewashing due	2.
ditto. Defects	1.
Air Raid Shelters, Closets defective.	38.
ditto. Closet apartments unsatisfactory.	6.
	932.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 - 1936.

There are 360 premises in the Urban District registered under the Shop Acts, bearing the following descriptions:-

Houses and shops	213.
Lock up shops	137.
Dwelling-houses used as shops	9.
Wholesale Warehouses	1.
	360.

In addition to routine patrol of the area, the following visits have been made to shops:-

111 visits as a result of which -
20 warnings were given.
1 prosecution.
1 conviction.

AIR RAID SHELTER DISINFECTION. Two men were employed by the Council at the commencement of November, to carry out the work of shelter disinfection under the supervision of this department. The disinfection is carried out systematically throughout the district. Public shelters are sprayed by means of a stirrup pump fitted with a special nozzle, communal shelters and school shelters with hand pressure sprayers,
The number of disinfections carried out in the two months ending 1940 was 3296.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was:-

(a) Council Houses ..... 6.
(b) Other Houses ..... 6.
(c) Number disinfested ..... 12.
(d) Total visits ..... 40.

The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed-bugs consist of (1) the removal of picture moulding, architraves and the skirting boards, and whilst these are being removed a blow-lamp is used; (2) the walls, ceilings and floors &c. are sprayed with a fluid insecticide (Zaldecide) with satisfactory results.

Further visits are paid at varying intervals up to three weeks and the house is alternately fumigated and sprayed during this period.

In order to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses, the Housing Manager inspects the premises of all prospective tenants, and on his report that there is an infestation of bed-bugs, the house is sprayed as above, and the furniture fumigated with "Fumoids."

The work of disinfestation is carried out be the Local Authority through the staff of the Public Health Department.

SWIMMING POOL. The Rivacre Valley Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a Period of Eight hours.

TABLE OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Parish.	Houses at end of 1939.	Completed during 1940.	Actual at end of 1940.
Parish of Ellesmere Port.			
Living-room and one bedroom	39.		39.
Living-room and two bedrooms	4.		4.
Living-room, kitchen and two bedrooms	517.		517.
Living-room, kitchen, scullery, two bedrooms	16.		16.
Living-room, kitchen, and three bedrooms.	1590.		1590.
Living-room, kitchen, scullery, three bedrooms	114.		114.
Parlour, living-room, scullery, two bedrooms	143.		143.
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	2360.	2.	2362.
Living-room and four bedrooms	10.		10.
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	163.		163.
Larger houses.	38.		38.
Totals.	4994.	2.	4996.
Parish of Great Stanney.			
Living-room, kitchen and two bedrooms	21		21.
Living-room, kitchen and three bedrooms.	127		127
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	91		91
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	4		4
Larger houses	2		2
Totals.	245.		245.

TABLE OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (Continued).

Parish.	Houses at end of 1939.	Completed during 1940.	Actual at end of 1940.
Parish of Childer Thornton.			
Living-room and one bedroom	7		7
Living-room, kitchen and two bedrooms	39		39
Living-room, kitchen and three bedrooms	26		26
Living-room, kitchen, scullery, & three bedrooms	6		6
Parlour, living-room, scullery, & two bedrooms	30		30
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	128		128
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	36		36.
Larger houses	37		37
	309		309
Parish of Great Sutton.			
Living-room and one bedroom	4		4
Living-room, kitchen, and two bedrooms	70		70
Living-room, kitchen, and three bedrooms	215		215
Living-room, kitchen, scullery two bedrooms	3		3
Parlour, kitchen, and three bedrooms	4		4
Parlour, living-room, scullery, two bedrooms	15		15
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	168	2	170
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	8		8
Larger houses	20		20.
	507	2	509.
Parish of Hooton.			
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	2		2
Larger houses	2		2
	4		4
Parish of Little Sutton.			
Living-room and one bedroom	1		1
Living-room, kitchen, and two bedrooms	72		72
Living-room, kitchen, and three bedrooms	350		350
Living-room, kitchen, and four bedrooms	2		2
Living-room, kitchen, scullery, two bedrooms	3		3
Parlour, living-room, scullery, two bedrooms	16		16
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	423	6	429
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	76		76
Larger houses	48		48
Totals	991	6	997
Parish of Ince.			
Living-room, kitchen, two bedrooms	40.		40.
Living-room, kitchen, three bedrooms	4.		4.
Parlour, living-room, scullery, two bedrooms	13		13
Parlour, living-room, scullery, three bedrooms	6		6
Parlour, living-room, scullery, four bedrooms	16		16
Larger houses	8	6	14
Totals.	87	6	93.

SUMMARY SHEWING TOTAL HOUSES FOR THE WHOLE AREA. at the end of 1940.

Parishes	Houses.
Ellesmere Port	4996.
Great Stanney	245.
Childer Thornton	309
Great Sutton	509
Hooton	4.
Little Sutton	997.
Ince	93.
Total.	7153.

The following table shews the number of new houses - and their location - which were erected during the year 1940.

Locality.	Builder.	Number of rooms.	Number of houses.
Kennerley Road, Whitby.	Hitchen.	Two living-rooms, scullery, three bedrooms.	2.
Parklands Estate, Little Sutton.	Collin.	Two living-rooms, scullery, three bedrooms.	6.
Backford Roundabout, Great Sutton.	C.C.C.	Two living-rooms, scullery, three bedrooms.	2.
Aureool Gardens, Ince.	Warrington.	Three living-rooms, scullery, four bedrooms.	6.
		Total.	16.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts).	150.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1143.
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1.) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	35.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Secs.9.10. and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices -	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil.

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices -	
(a) By owners	23.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil.
(c) Remaining in hand	5.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply: There are 36 registered cowkeepers, 8 milk purveyors, 13 Dairies and 4 milkshops in the district. In addition 14 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside, and there are 3 registered wholesalers resident outside the district.

The Register gives the following entries:-

Cowkeepers (wholesale producers)	26.
Cowkeepers (Retail producers)	10.
Dairies, milkshops, and milk purveyors	25.
Total registered milk dealers in the district	61.
Wholesalers resident outside the district	3.
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside	14.
Total number of Milk Dealers on the Registers.	78.

26 samples of milk were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Of those examined for Tuberculosis, all were found to be negative.
27 of the cowkeepers are on the Accredited roll.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. 654 visits were paid to the Public Abattoir and 6 to the Private Slaughterhouse, for the purpose of inspection whilst slaughtering was in progress.

This private slaughterhouse has now been closed under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and although power is given for the person aggrieved to appeal against such a decision, no appeal has been lodged.

67 visits were made to shops and market stalls where various foods were offered for sale.

Food and Drugs Act 1938.

21 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 during the year.

19 in respect of cooked fish.
2 in respect of Ice-cream shops.

In three instances it was necessary for alterations to be carried out before the premises could comply with the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

During the year under review the trade or business of "Fish Frying" ceased to be an offensive trade, from the 1st of October 1940, as defined under the Public Health Act 1936.

The making of Bye-Laws in respect of these businesses has been left in abeyance on the advice of the Ministry of Health, until after the present war period.

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected at the Slaughterhouses; also the number of whole carcases, portions of carcases and organs rejected on account of their unfitness for human consumption, giving the total weight of 17 tons. 3 cwts. 77 lbs.

The duties at the Abattoir were very heavy, involving many extra hours being spent by the inspectors at night, in order to ensure that every animal was inspected at the time of slaughter.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	1103.	357.	326.	12,315.	1045.	15,146.
Number Inspected	1103.	357.	326.	12,315.	1045.	15,146.
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases rejected	1.	11.	6.	15.	15.	48.
Carcases of which some part or organ was rejected	281.	43.	3.	201.	74.	602.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	25.5%	15.1%	2.7%	1.7%	8.5%	4.2%
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases rejected	9.	13.	2.	-	2.	26.
Carcases of which some part or organ was rejected	85.	160.	-	-	202.	447.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	8.5%	48.4%	0.6%	-	19.5%	3.1%
Septic Conditions.						
Whole carcases rejected	-	5.	1.	1.	8.	15.
Carcases of which some part or organ was rejected.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with septic conditions.	-	1.4%	0.3%	0.008%	0.7%	0.009%

In addition to the above, the undermentioned were rejected at the abattoir:-

Two chucks beef.
One beast head and set of beast lungs. Localised Tuberculosis. (brought in from an adjourning district).
Twenty-six sets of beast's intestines. Decomposition.
Total weight 346 lbs.

Eight special visits were paid to shops on request of the traders, and the following foods were rejected.

Four tins Jellied Veal	Decomposition.
One barrel Salted pigs heads	-do-
One box Cod fish	-do-
One box Haddlets	-do-
One frozen sheep	Mould.

Total weight 121 lbs.

CANAL BOATS.

79 boats were inspected during the year, and these were registered to carry 231 Adults and 82 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 151 Adults, 62 children.

Eleven Statutory Notices were served. Nine have been complied with. No case of infectious disease occurred on canal boats during the year, it was not necessary therefore to detain any boat for cleansing and disinfection.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

List of Samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port during the year ended 31st December 1940.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number Adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Almonds, Ground	2.	-
Ammoniated Quinine Tablets	1.	-
Boracic Ointment	1.	-
Carborlated Vaseline	1.	-
Castor	2.	-
Cheese, Cheshire.	3.	1.
Cheese, Cream	2.	2.
Cinnamon & Quinine Capsules	1.	-
Coffee	2.	-
Fish Paste	4.	-
Ginger, Ground	1.	-
Glycerine	1.	-
Grey Powders	1.	-
Iodine, Tincture of	2.	-
Lard	1.	-
Liquorice Powder	2.	-
Margarine	1.	-
Milk	29.	1
Milk, Condensed	1.	-
Olive Oil	3.	-
Pepper	1.	-
Phenol Ointment	2.	1
Prawns	1.	-
Rice, Ground	1.	-
Rum	1.	-
Sal Volatile	1.	-
Sausage	1.	-
Syrup of Figs	1.	-
Zinc Ointment	1.	-
	71.	5.

Regarding the non-standard samples the following summary shows the analysis and action taken :-

1. Phenol Ointment. 60% deficient in Phenol.
This was a test sample purchased unknown to the seller. A corresponding formal sample was purchased soon after the result of this test was known but the formal was found to be genuine. A possible explanation is that the test was from old stock which had deteriorated whereas the formal was from a new supply.

2. Cream Cheese. 41% deficient in fat.
Although "Cream Cheese" was asked for, our agent was supplied with one of the many popular types of soft cheese,- wrapped in tin foil. On investigation it was found that the shop assistant had no idea that such types of soft cheese must not be sold as "cream cheese". The seller was cautioned by letter.

3. Cream Cheese. 46% deficient in fat.
See remarks to No. 2.

4. Cheshire Cheese. Certified as "not of the quality of Cheshire Cheese". This was a test sample but the corresponding formal sample subsequently obtained was certified as genuine.

5. Milk. 2% deficient in Non-fatty solids.
Owing to the very small deficiency no action was taken.

Taking the samples as a whole there is no evidence of wilful fraud except perhaps in the case of No. 4. Regarding Nos. 2 & 3 these results were similar to those obtained in numerous other parts of the County and was generally due to slackness of the public asking for "cream Cheese" when in fact they actually wanted a cheap soft cheese.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Total cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	45.	41.	Nil.
Diphtheria	32.	32.(8 neg.)	1.
Enteric Fever	1.	0.	Nil.
Erysipelas	9.	7.	Nil.
Pneumonia	11.	2.	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.	1.	Nil.
Measles	38.	0.	1.
Ophthalmia neonatorium	1.	1.	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal fever	5.	5.	2.
	143.	89.	4.

Of the cases of diphtheria notified 7 were stated to have been inoculated against this disease. Four of these 7 cases were reported by the hospital authorities not to be suffering from diphtheria. Of the three remaining cases two had been recently inoculated and had not acquired sufficient protection. Information regarding the remaining case is incomplete.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease.	North East.	North West.	South.	Whitby.	Stanney.	Victoria.	Pool & Hooton.	Childer Thornton.	Little Sutton.	Great Sutton.	Grange.	Ince.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	2	2	9	5	1	6		2	18	1	1		47
Diphtheria	3	2	2	1		8	3		6	1	8		34
Typhoid				1									1
Pneumonia	1			2		3		1	1		1		9
Erysipelas		1	1	2		2					2		8
Cerebro-spinal fever						1	1		1		2		5
Puerperal Pyrexia						1							1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1											1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4		1	1		4			2				12
Non-pulmon. -do-	1	3	3	1		5			1		1		15
	11.	9.	16.	13.	1.	30.	4.	3.	29.	2.	15.		133.

Less negative diphtheria 8
Total actual cases 125.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Pulmonary. M.	New Cases. Pulmonary. F.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. F.
0 - 1 year.								
1 - 5 years.			3	5				1
5 - 15 years.			3	2				
15-25 years.	2	5		1	1	1		
25-35 years.		1	1					
35-45 years.								
45-55 years.	2							
55-65 years.	2				3			
65 and upwards.								
	6	6	7	8	4	1		1

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1940.

Disease.		Total. M.	Total. F.	0--1. M.	0--1. F.	1--2. M.	1--2. F.	2--3. M.	2--3. F.	3--4. M.	3--4. F.	4--5. M.	4--5. F.	5--10. M.	5--10. F.	10-15. M.	10-15. F.	15-20. M.	15-20. F.	20-35. M.	20-35. F.	35-45. M.	35-45. F.	45-65. M.	45-65. F.	Over. M.	Over. F.
	Total Cases	105.		1.			1.	7.	1.	6.	4.	1.	1.	20.	16.	6.	5.	5.	4.	9.	5.	1.	4.	4.	4.		1.
	Total Deaths	3.															1.							1.	1.		
Scarlet Fever	Cases	47.	24.	23.			1.	2.		4.	4.	1.		12.	10.	3.	3.		2.	2.	1.				1.		1.
	Deaths	-																									
Diphtheria	Cases	34.	19.	15.				5.	1.	2.			1.	5.	6.	3.	2.	3.	2.	1.	2.		1.				
	Deaths	1.		1.													1.										
Typhoid	Cases	1.		1.																					1.		
	Deaths	-																									
Pneumonia	Cases	9.	7.	2.										2.						1.			1.	4.	1.		
	Deaths	2.	1.	1.																				1.	1.		
Erysipelas	Cases	8.	5.	3.														1.		3.	1.	1.	1.		1.		
	Deaths	-																									
Puerperal	Cases	1.		1.																	1.						
	Deaths	-																									
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Cases	1.	1.		1.																						
	Deaths	-																									
Cerebro-spinal fever	Cases	5.	4.	1.										1.				1.		2.			1.				
	Deaths	-																									
Smallpox	Cases	-																									
	Deaths	-																									
Acute Poliomyelitis	Cases	-																									
	Deaths	-																									
Acute Polioencephalitis	Cases	-																									
	Deaths	-																									
Encephalitis Lethargica	Cases	-																									
	Deaths	-																									

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following report is supplied by the Senior Health Visitor.

Notification of Births and Health Visiting.

During the year 571 births were notified, of these 24 were still births.

142 of these occurred in Spital Maternity Hospital.
4 in Bromborough Maternity Home.
6 in Chester Maternity Hospital.
3 in Liverpool Maternity Hospital.
2 in Heswall Nursing Home.
1 in Greystones Nursing Home.
1 in West Kirby Nursing Home.

9735 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the homes during the year as follows:-

1st visits to infants	559.
Revisits to infants.	3046.
Revisits to children 1-5 yrs.	5035.
Pre-Natal visits.	355.
Visits to school children.	341.
Incidental calls.	399.
	9735.

Visits to infants are paid at regular intervals from the time the midwife ceases her attendance till the child enters school - Instruction is on diet, general management, and hygiene, also on the prevention of infection and care in illness. Visits to schoolchildren are to cases of infectious diseases. Incidental calls are to nurses, schools, Public Assistance Officers etc.

PRE-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held weekly - on Wednesday afternoon.

267 mothers attended for the first time.
1051 further attendances were made.
22 mothers attended for Post Natal examination.

1340 attendances in all.

Percentage of attendances in relation to births 46.7 of the remaining number-

56 were under the attention of their own doctor.
203 were under the care of the nurse.

HOME HELPS.

6 mothers applied for the service of a Home Help.
2 paid full fees.
4 paid the amount charged by the Council according to their income.

STILL BIRTHS.

24 still births were registered - these were due to the following causes -

Ante-partum Haemorrhage	9.
Obstruction and difficult labour (Abnormality of Foetus)	8.
No apparent cause	5.
Albuminura	2.
Accident	1
	24.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

36 infants died under the age of one year.
7 children died between the age of one to five years.

The following table shows the causes of death.

Under one year.		Over one Year.	
Pneumonia	13.	Accident	2.
Malformation	3.	Tuberculosis Meningitis	1.
Prematurity	7.	Measles	1.
Feebleness at birth.	3.	Pneumonia.	1.
Gastro-Enteritis	5.	Meningitis.	1.
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1.	Asthma	1.
Convulsions	1.		
Asphyxia	2.		
Intersusception	1		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

8 children were visited - throat swabs taken - all were negative.
3 children were visited on discharge from hospital.
150 children under 5 years were inoculated against diphtheria.
64 school children were also done.

An arrangment is made with the Head Teacher to give the mother a consent form when the child is admitted to school. If this is signed, the teacher brings down her new children at the beginning of each term.

6 swabs were taken from contacts of a case of cerebro-spinal fever.

Scarlet Fever - 12 children discharged from hospital were seen.
Measles - 41 children were visited - this was a mild form.
German Measles 207 cases were visited, advise and help given on nursing etc.
Whooping Cough- 7 cases were visited. This epidemic has just started, and is going to be a severe one with complications of Bronchitis and Pneumonia.
Impetigo - 3 cases were visited.

DENTAL CLINIC.

20 children were treated by the school dentist by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held monthly.

61 children attended for the first time.
49 revisits were paid making a total attendance of 110.
Many of these children have to attend daily for treatment, and 486 of these treatments were given.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

3 sessions is held in two months on Monday afternoon.
2 sessions weekly are held for massage and remedial exercises - Monday and Thursday afternoons.

CONVALESCENT HOME.

No children were sent to the Convalescent Home in West Kirby as the Home was closed on account of war difficulties.

MOTHERCRAFT TO SCHOOLGIRLS.

Having been invited by the Housewifery Mistress, lectures and demonstrations are given to schoolgirls by the Health Visitors.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

8 Foster Mothers were entered on the register.
6 have since been cancelled as two of the children were legally adopted and 4 returned to their mothers. At the end of the year 2 names remained on the register.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

All the Health visitors are on call for voluntary service at the hospital in case of an air raid at night.

During the day the health visitors remain at the service of their mothers and children. An excellent shelter has been provided by the Council, and equipment is ready if any emergency should arise.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoon, and once a week at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons:-

		LITTLE SUTTON.
First visits of mothers	561	158.
" " " infants	355	104.
" " " children 1-5 yrs.	272	67.
	1188	329

Total attendances of mothers	5205	1775.
" " " infants	3952	1391.
" " " children 1-5 yrs.	1920	513.
	11077.	3679.

Percentage of attendance in relation to live births 80%.

1097 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health.
31 children were given a routine medical inspection.
11 were found to be suffering from carious teeth.
12 were referred to the Aural Clinic.
7 were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.
11 were referred for the treatment of eye defects.
10 children suffering from debility were sent to the Cottage hospital for treatment by Artificial Sunlight.

392 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health in Little Sutton.
19 children were given a routine Medical inspection.
5 were referred to the dentist for carious teeth.
1 was referred to the Aural Clinic.
4 were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.
2 were referred for the treatment of eye defects.

Once again I must express my sincere gratitude to the Voluntary Committee of each centre. Their unfailing enthusiasm helps in a large measure to create an atmosphere that makes the centres attractive to the mothers.

DAY NURSERY. The question of opening a day nursery was discussed during the year. It was found that a third of the women employed in factories were married, and the majority of these had placed their children in the care of relatives.

The need for opening a nursery is not pressing, but may become so in the near future.

FOOD CAMPAIGN. The Ministry of Health issued a circular asking Child Welfare Authorities to give guidance in food values to the public.

The Health Committee of this Council instructed me to seek the co-operation of the Domestic Science mistresses in the District.

Classes for housewives are held weekly in the Cookery Centres of the schools, and are proving very popular.

CLERICAL WORK.

This grows year by year but the appointment of a clerk has given the trained staff more freedom for their own work. Miss Isaacs has proved to be quick and intelligent, and an asset to the staff.

Dr. Hartley Martin reports as follows.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Visits by surgeon	17.
Attendances by Orthopaedic Sister	36.
New Cases Examined	79.
Re-examined	319.

ANALYSIS OF CASES.

	Under school age.		Of school age.		Over school age.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
New cases -						
Non-Tuberculous	27	17	18.	17.	-	-
Tuberculous	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-examinations -						
Non-Tuberculous	77	54	86.	86.	3	1
Tuberculous	-	-	3.	5.	-	4.

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES DEPARTMENT.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of Patients Treated	17	17	34.
" Attendance of Cases	479	445	924.
" New Cases referred for Treatment	4	5	9.
" Cases in which the Treatment has been Terminated	2	5	7.

DISEASE CATEGORIES.	Remaining 1939 in relation to School Age.			New Cases 1940 in relation to School Age.			Remaining 1940 in relation to School Age.			Discharged 1940						
	Under.	of.	over.	Under.	of.	over.	Under.	of.	over.	Cured.	Relieved.	Over Age-Relieved.	Left District.	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable.	Died.
Infantile Paralysis	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Spastic Paralysis	2	6	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
Rickets	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis (Osteitis and Arthritis	1	7	1	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Non-Tuberculosis -do-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deformities-Congenital	13	18	-	2	5	-	8	18	-	7	-	2	2	1	-	-
-do- Acquired	25	24	-	27	14	-	41	23	-	15	-	2	2	4	2	1
Diagnosis	5	2	-	14	12	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	-
Totals.	47	66	1	44	35	0	64	59	0	25.	2	5	6	9	21	2